

GENERAL NEWS.

The N. Y. Tribune has a special dispatch from Columbus, Ohio, stating that Rev. Dr. Brooks, of St. Louis, and Rev. D. Hoyt, of Louisville, were arrested on Friday night at the house of a secessionist, Judge Clark, of Ohio. It is reported that important papers were found on them, implicating Hon. C. L. Vallandigham, who will be taken with them to Cincinnati.

Charles G. Egerton, Jr., until recently a brigadier general of Maryland volunteer militia; Augustus Rutledge, of Baltimore county, William Hawkins and Dr. William D. F. Larkin, of Baltimore city, were all arrested on Saturday and Sunday, charged with uttering treasonable sentiments. Egerton had just returned from a visit to the South, where he had spent several weeks. The police officers also arrested John C. Faber and Bernard Rafferty, charged with being Southern mail carriers, both of whom had formerly served as policemen under ex-Marshal Kane.

Capt. David Porter, U. S. N., has returned to Washington from the Mississippi. On his voyage home in the Octorara, he captured, after an exciting chase, the British iron screw steamer Tubal Cain. She was then steering northwest by north for the port of Charleston. She sailed from Nassau, N. P., on Sunday, the 20th July inst., in company with two other steamers, all loaded with arms and munitions of war; and if not intercepted, the others are, by this time, safe in port. The prize has been sent to New York.

Lewis S. Partridge, U. S. Marshal and Postmaster in Norwich, Vermont, under Buchanan's administration, who was recently indicted for high treason, has absconded, accompanied by the other prominent parties implicated.—The principal charge was the cutting down of a flag-staff, and carrying off the U. S. flag.

The Confederates are building three iron-clad gunboats at Richmond—one, the "New Merri-mac," is nearly completed, and ready for the guns to be put on board; another, called the "Lady Davis," is now being iron-clad, and the third one is on the stocks, not so far advanced.

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston has nearly recovered from the effects of the wound received at the battle of Seven Pines. He will be able to report for duty in less than ten days.

The steamer State of Maine arrived at Fortress Monroe on Sunday morning, from City Point, with three hundred and fifty released prisoners from Richmond. They were brought down to City Point in charge of Dr. Cullen, Medical Director of Longstreet's division, and received by Col. Sweitzer, of Gen. McClellan's staff. Every courtesy was shown these prisoners, and the sick and wounded, whilst in prison, were kindly treated. Dr. Burritt, the surgeon in charge of the State of Maine, says the released prisoners were visited at Harrison's Landing by Gen. McClellan and one of his staff officers, and the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, who examined the condition of the vessel. The prisoners were brought down in freight cars, for which the Confederate officers apologized, saying that all their cars were occupied in sending troops to Gen. Jackson. In reply to a question where Jackson was, it was replied that nobody knew where Jackson was, but that they knew enough of him to reinforce him.

Ice is selling in Columbia, S. C., to the sick only, at six cents per pound. No one is allowed to purchase more than six pounds at a time, and all must produce a physician's certificate to prove that ice is absolutely essential to the recovery of the patient.

A letter written at North Edisto Island, on the 14th of July, says, orders had just been received for the abandonment of that Island.—Crowds of negroes had been coming to the wharf all day, having abandoned their growing crops. They were selling their pigs, chickens and eggs at very low prices. Their corn, which had been constantly guarded, was in good condition for roasting. The soldiers had not been allowed to pluck an ear of it. A second letter, written at Beaufort on the 16th, says the departure was hastened on the 14th. Contrabands were taken on board the steamer as long as she could float at the wharf. She was then taken into the stream, and they were brought on board in boats. They reached Hilton Head on the morning of the 15th, and from there went to Beaufort.

The lager beer brewers of N. York have held an adjourned meeting for the purpose of coming to some determination in relation to the tax bill recently passed by Congress. It was resolved to form a Protective Union, and also to regulate the price of the article—for the large manufacturers to adopt a standard, below which they will not sell. This action will better enable them to meet the Government tax demand.

The steamer Spaulding arrived at New York on Saturday with sick and wounded soldiers from Gen. McClellan's army. This will be the last arrival at that port of soldiers from the battle field, as hereafter the hospitals will be established in Virginia along the banks of the Potomac. The Park Barracks, now used for hospital purposes, it is understood, will be closed after the first of August.

General White, one of the most prominent officers at Pea Ridge and other battles in Missouri and Arkansas, is about to be assigned to a command in the army of General Pope.

Some released wounded prisoners were visited at Harrison's Landing by General McClellan. To one of them, who expressed a wish to get well and help to take Richmond, the General replied: "You will have to make haste, then."

Senator Simmons, it is said, intends to give fifty thousand dollars to the families of the Rhode Island volunteers.

A Washington letter in the Boston Traveler states that Gen. Halleck has begun already to strike a blow at the Secessionists of that city. He has called upon the Police Board, which is friendly to the Government, to give him a list of the families in town suspected of secession sentiments. He means to keep a close watch over these men, and if he can catch them at anything wrong, to compel them to go South.

The casualties of all kinds in the Army of the Western Department (late Halleck's) since it went into the field, are stated at 63,500, of which 40,000 are charged to death and absence from sickness, and 18,000 to various casualties by battle.

The War Department has adopted and issued important regulations to facilitate the filling up of regiments now in the field and for recruiting new regiments.

The leading Republican journal, the New York Commercial Advertiser, favors the establishment of settlements for contraband negroes in Central America, the West India Islands, or Africa. It says: "It is exceedingly undesirable, on more grounds than one, to bring the African element Northward even temporarily, unless we are prepared to play into the hands of demagogues who would only be too glad of the opportunity to foster opposition to the Government among a portion of the community."

At a meeting lately held by some abolitionists in Boston several of the speakers avowed their hostility to the Union, resolved that it ought to be destroyed, pronounced it folly for young men to enlist, and abused the President in unmeasured terms!

The Richmond Enquirer of the 23d inst., states that at the last meeting of the Commissioners for a general exchange of prisoners, Gen. Hill and Gen. Dix, the latter objected to a clause forbidding the arrest of citizens, and that the negotiations were suspended to allow General Dix to visit his government for instructions.

The health of New Orleans continues good. Two thousand men were employed in cleaning the streets.

The health of the French troops in Mexico is improving. The Mexican Generals Doblado, Saragoza and Ortega are reported to be quarreling, and Gen. Guerrillas has withdrawn from the Orizaba road, leaving the way clear to Vera Cruz.

The armory in Springfield, Massachusetts, makes 14,000 stand of arms a month. In a short time that establishment, with the five private shops in operation there, will be able to manufacture 35,000 guns per month.

Spectators describe the appearance of the shots as they struck the iron-plated Confederate steamer Arkansas, to have been curious in the extreme. Every time a solid shot struck her plating a cloud of blue blaze seemed to rise from the spot, and a streak of brighter fire, caused by the friction, marked the entire course of the shot, until it passed over the vessel into the water. Some of the heaviest shot, however, passed entirely through the plating and penetrated the interior of the vessel.

The army correspondent of Philadelphia Inquirer, writing from Gen. McClellan's army says:—"The latter part of last week, and the fore part of this, the number of returning officers were somewhat diminished. But for the past few days the number has been increasing; many that are now going are provided with accepted resignations, others sent on recruiting service, while about half of the whole number have no right or business to go."

Gen. Benj. F. Roberts has been assigned to duty at General Pope's headquarters as Chief of cavalry.

There is a spouting well in Salineville, Ohio, up which the gas rushes in large volumes and with great violence. A romantic couple, a few nights since, invited their friend and clergyman to the vicinity of the well, set fire to the spouting jet of gas, and by the light of the tall pillar of roaring flame, were united in marriage.

Two thousand contrabands are said to have gone to Gen. McClellan's army to assist in working in the trenches.